

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants' undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Walling and Supervisory Patent Examiner Barlow for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview conducted on May 19, 2004. The interview focused on independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3-5, 7 and 8, particularly with respect to the Boesch, Eckelt and Okawa references cited by the Examiner in the final Office Action.

This Response is submitted under Rule 116 in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention as discussed with the Examiners during the interview and to place this application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the above Amendments. In view of the interview, the above Amendments and the Remarks which follow, reconsideration and early allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 13, 16-35 and 39 are currently pending in this application. Claims 13, 16-35 and 39 are allowed. Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for the reasons stated on pages 2-6 of the Office Action. Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 4 herein and have rewritten claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 3 and 4. No new matter has been introduced.

During the telephone interview conducted with the Examiners, Applicants' undersigned attorney presented arguments to establish that the cited Boesch, Eckelt and Okawa references, whether taken alone or combined, do not teach or suggest Applicants' invention as claimed in the rejected claims. Particularly, it was argued that the "displacement" calculated according to Boesch is essentially an integral of velocity values over time, and by calculating tire pressure from a computed velocity value, Boesch introduces inaccuracies which are avoided by

Applicants' claimed invention. It was also argued that, contrary to Applicants' claimed invention, Eckelt merely describes providing a pulse counter to determine miles traveled by a rental vehicle, and is not at all concerned with monitoring tire pressure, let alone based on distance traveled. It was further argued that the counting of pulses in Okawa is merely a sub-procedure for calculating velocity values, and, contrary to Applicants' claimed invention, the detection of tire pressure drop is based on velocity values.

As indicated in the Interview Summary prepared by the Examiners on May 19, 2004, during the interview it was agreed that the combination of the cited references does not teach or suggest Applicants' invention as claimed in at least rejected dependent claim 4, and that amendments to the claims to present an independent claim including all of the limitations of claims 1, 3 and 4 would traverse the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled dependent claims 3 and 4 and have rewritten claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 3 and 4. It is submitted that claim 1 is in form for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

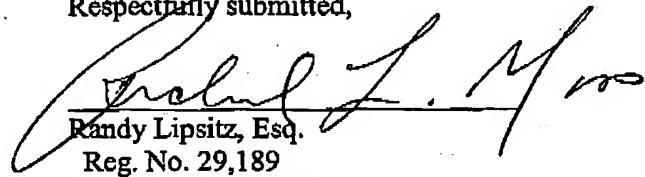
Applicants have also amended claims 5 and 8 to depend from amended claim 1 (dependent claim 7 which already depends from claim 1 remains in its present form). It is submitted that claims 5, 7 and 8 are also patentable over Boesch, Eckelt and Okawa for the same reasons that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over these references, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Notice to the effect that claims 5, 7 and 8 are in form for immediate allowance is also respectfully requested.

In view of all the foregoing, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance, and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorneys at the telephone number set forth below if it will further advance the prosecution of this case.

No fee is believed due with this Response. Please charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,



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